Section II. (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend claims 2, 10-14, 17 and 18, and add new claims 19-25 as set out in the following listing of claims 1-25.

- 1. (Original) A plasmid wherein two restriction enzyme recognition sites into which a T- vector can be cloned are introduced at the downstream of a promoter of a vector that is constantly expressed at high levels regardless of the kind of a host cell, whereby the plasmid functions as both the T-vector and an expression vector and has the property of allowing the expression of a target gene to be examined only by one-step T-vector cloning.
- 2. (Currently amended) The plasmid according to claim 1, wherein the restriction enzyme recognition sites into which the T-vector can be cloned is are selected from the group consisting of HphI, MboII, AspEI and XcmI, and a polynucleotide is inserted between the two restriction enzyme recognition sites.
- 3. (Original) The plasmid according to claim 2, wherein a nucleotide having thymine bases at both 3'-ends of the removal position of the inserted polynucleotide is exposed, when the plasmid is cut with the restriction enzymes.
- 4. (Original) The plasmid according to claim 1, wherein the constitutive high-level expression vector is pHCE.
- 5. (Original) A plasmid (pHCE-FOREX) functioning as both a T-vector and an expression vector, wherein two AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites are introduced at the downstream of the HCE promoter of the pHCE vector, and a polynucleotide having AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites at its both ends is inserted between the two AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites.
- 6. (Original) A constitutive high-level expression T-vector (pHCE-FOREX-T), which is obtained by digesting the plasmid pHCE-FOREX of claim 5 with an AspEI restriction enzyme, to remove the polynucleotide having AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites at its both ends, and in which a nucleotide having thymine bases at both 3'-ends of the removal position of the polynucleotide is exposed.

- 7. (Original) A method for producing a plasmid (pHCE-FOREX) functioning as both a T- vector and an expression vector, the method comprising the steps of: (a) constructing pHCE-MI which the restriction enzyme recognition sites were removed by inducing point mutation in AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites in a pHCE vector; (b) constructing pHCE-M2 by introducing two AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites into the downstream of the HCE promoter of the pHCE-MI vector by PCR using primers containing the AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites; and (c) inserting a polynucleotide having AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites at its both ends, between the two AspEI restriction enzyme recognition sites of the pHCE-M2 vector.
- 8. (Original) An expression vector, which is obtained by digesting the plasmid of claim 2 with the restriction enzymes to remove the inserted polynucleotide, and then inserting a gene encoding a target protein, into a position from which the polynucleotide was removed.
- 9. (Original) An expression vector, wherein a gene encoding a target protein is inserted into the constitutive high-level expression T-vector (pHCE-FOREX-T) of claim 6.
- 10. (Currently amended) The expression vector according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the target protein- encoding gene is a gene amplified by PCR.
- 11. (Currently amended) The expression vector according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the target protein- encoding gene is a PCR product amplified by using a primer having the amino terminal end of ATG, and a primer specific to the base sequence of the gene.
- 12. (Currently amended) The expression vector according to claim 8 or 9, wherein NdeI restriction enzyme recognition site is formed in the insertion position of the gene encoding the target protein.
- 13. (Currently amended) A microorganisms microorganism transformed with the expression vector of any one claim among claims 8 to 12 claim 8.
- 14. (Currently amended) A method for expressing a gene encoding target protein, which comprises culturing the transformed microorganisms microorganism of claim 13.
- 15. (Original) An expression vector library, which is prepared by the method comprising the steps of: (a) removing the inserted polynucleotide by digesting the plasmid of claim 2 with the restriction enzyme selected from the group consisting of HphI, MboII, AspEI and Xc7nI; and (b) inserting the library of various genes into a position from which the polynucleotide was removed.

- 16. (Original) An expression vector library wherein the library of various genes is inserted into the high-level expression T-vector (pHCE-FOREX-T) of claim 6.
- 17. (Currently amended) A method for determining the cloning of a target gene, the method comprising the steps of: (a) transforming microorganisms with the expression vector library of claim 15 or 16; and (b) culturing the transformed microorganisms.
- 18. (Currently amended) The method for determining the cloning of a target gene according to claim 17, wherein further comprising the steps of: separating a plasmid after the step (b); and digesting the plasmid with an Ndel restriction enzyme.
- 19. (New) The expression vector according to claim 9, wherein the target protein- encoding gene is a gene amplified by PCR.
- 20. (New) The expression vector according to claim 9, wherein the target protein- encoding gene is a PCR product amplified by using a primer having the amino terminal end of ATG, and a primer specific to the base sequence of the gene.
- 21. (New) The expression vector according to claim 9, wherein NdeI restriction enzyme recognition site is formed in the insertion position of the gene encoding the target protein.
- 22. (New) A microorganism transformed with the expression vector of claim 9.
- 23. (New) A microorganism transformed with the expression vector of claim 10.
- 24. (New) A microorganism transformed with the expression vector of claim 11.
- 25. (New) A microorganism transformed with the expression vector of claim 12.